

2005-20

>>> "Nancy Barker" <[nanbarker@comcast.net](mailto:nanbarker@comcast.net)> 3/18/2007 11:21 PM >>>

I am responding to a March 15th article that appeared in the Detroit Free Press that requested input regarding judges who miss work due to illness.

I am stunned to learn that medical documentation is not required to substantiate an illness of up to 12 weeks! I have worked in Human Resources for two Fortune 500 companies, who rightfully, required proof of illness before an employee can continue to receive pay. It is ludicrous to think that judges should be exempt from what is a such a common sense requirement!

I feel that a reasonable number of sick days should be awarded to employees on an annual basis. After three consecutive days off due to illness, an employee must provide documentation of that illness signed by a Medical Doctor. Our Court system has a backlog of cases, and absenteeism abuse is likely one of the causes. The State of Michigan is currently looking for ways to cut costs; let's use common sense and implement reasonable cross checks, apparently necessary to reign in skyrocketing costs of a legal system that has allowed itself to careen out of control, by abusing the "honor" system to police itself regarding medical leaves of absence.

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